

The Becket School

Collective Worship Policy and Guidelines for Implementation

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” Acts 2:42

September 2015



The Becket School Collective Worship Policy

1. Date of Policy September, 2015

**Date of Renewal
September, 2018**

2. The Becket School as part of the wider Catholic Community

The Catholic community should naturally celebrate that Jesus is Lord and come together to worship as the People of God. As a Catholic school, The Becket aims to live out its Mission Statement and create opportunities for worship and for active involvement in liturgy. We aim to give all students the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Gospel values and how to practice them.

We have a legal obligation under the 1988 Education Reform Act to provide a daily Act of Collective Worship.

The law requires the act of worship be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and under recent Government instruction (Nov, 2014) we aim to include opportunities in Collective Worship for students to explore and learn about British Values.

3. Aims

All Collective Worship aims to up hold the Mission Statement of The Becket School

Our mission is to work in partnership with parents and carers to provide an outstanding Catholic education for all our young people. This means:

- inspiring and motivating young people to achieve their full potential academically, spiritually, socially and in a full range of extra-curricular activities
- helping young people to grow in the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ
- developing in young people a deep knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith
- practising Gospel values, such as forgiveness and helping those in need, within our school community and in society as a whole.

"Education is integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News. First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth." Pope Benedict XVI. All Collective Worship at The Becket school links with the Catholic Church mission of evangelisation. We will provide opportunities to live the Catholic liturgical year and work closely with all of our Parishes to provide opportunities for students to explore and reflect on their faith.

We aim to place Christ at the centre of all that we do in our Collective Worship. With the primary aim of promoting the fullness of Christian life through an educational philosophy in which faith, culture and life are brought into harmony.

‘Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.’ (*Religious Education and Collective Worship* 1/94)

4. Guidelines for Implementation

Acts of Worship

The primary focus of an Act of Worship is to create a powerful and prayerful experience where young people can encounter the living God and engage with their faith.

Acts of Worship are accessible to all, regardless of belief and background and will provide students with interesting and varied opportunities to experience both contemporary and traditional prayer.

Form Time, Year Group, Key Stage and House Acts of Worship

During a typical school week students will have four Form Time Acts of Worship using the ‘Be Inspirational’ Prayer Resources and either Year Group Act of Worship (Week One) or a Key Stage Act of Worship (Week Two).

In Form time Acts of Worship staff and students work together to create and lead varied and interesting worship experiences. Each week tutor groups will explore the current prayer theme, liturgical season and where possible the Saint for the day. There will also be an opportunity to reflect on that week’s Gospel scripture, using their planners.

The Becket has a vertical House System with one form from each Year Group belonging to a House named after its patron. In the second week of each half-term students will attend a House Act of Worship with the other form groups from their House. They will also prepare and celebrate a House Mass on or near the feast day / memorial of their patron with each form taking responsibility for a different element of the liturgy.

Senior Leaders, Progress Leaders and Students will all lead Acts of Worship in the Chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved so that students are reminded of the central focus of our worship. Where simultaneous Acts of Worship are being led in multiple locations care will be taken to make the space suitable and reverent.

Liturgies throughout the liturgical year

When important dates in the liturgical year fall within term time, specially prepared liturgies are celebrated by the community and are led by staff, students and the Chaplaincy Teams. These will be planned, prepared and delivered with the same high standards and will make special effort to celebrate the Catholic liturgical tradition in an inclusive and accessible way.

End of Term Liturgies

The school comes together in prayer at the end of each term. This liturgy will tie in directly with the liturgical season and provide an opportunity for all members of the community to give thanks and to celebrate that time of year. A separate opportunity to mark academic achievement will also be held at the end of each term.

Students and Staff are encouraged, with the support of the Chaplains, to take an equal part in the planning, delivery and evaluation of collective worship throughout the school year. Staff will model high quality collective worship experiences to the students. Students will be nurtured, praised and encouraged to lead collective worship with their peers.

Planning & Preparation

Acts of Worship will be thoughtfully prepared and tie in with the prayer theme across the school that week. These themes will be disseminated with the Act of Worship rota each term.

Acts of Worship will be rooted in scripture; it will feature prominently, and connect directly with the theme.

Acts of Worship will be planned using the 'Be Inspirational' planning sheets, with the support of the School Chaplains. Following the plans and templates will help to ensure that each Act of Worship contains something to see, something to hear, something to think about and something to do, ensuring that it is inclusive and engaging.

Delivery

An Act of Worship will always begin and end with the Sign of the Cross to remind students and staff that Christ is at the centre of our faith community.

In all Acts of Worship, it is important that an appropriate atmosphere representative of the liturgical season is established. Notices and announcements will all be given out before the Act of Worship begins and where possible the students will be dismissed in a prayerful and meaningful way to carry the spirit of the experience into their day.

Acts of Worship will be delivered with reverence and respect for the spiritual and liturgical content and, if appropriate, for the sacred spaces in which they are celebrated. Use of the altar/ focus is encouraged as a focal point.

Evaluation and Development

Where possible, Acts of Worship will be evaluated, either informally through discussion and comment or using the Be Inspirational evaluation sheet. These will be collated regularly through the Be Inspirational site or in the School Evidence Folder.

The style and nature of our Acts of Worship will continually be open to the needs of the community and be open to incorporating new ideas and experiences, whilst always staying true to our Catholic ethos.

Mass

Mass is celebrated every week in school with weekly voluntary Masses open to staff, students and the Local Community. The dates of Whole school or House Masses are published as part of the whole-school calendar at the beginning of the academic year. On Holy Days of Obligation two Masses are celebrated. All students will attend one of these.

Mass involves all members of the community and where appropriate parts of the liturgy will be led by different members of the community. Time will be given to prepare and practice music as an integral part of the worship.

Prayer throughout the day

Staff will ensure that a prayer is said at the start of every form time, at the end of the last lesson before lunch and at the end of the last lesson of each day. The school day begins and ends in prayer and other opportunities for reflection will be encouraged by staff and students. Staff may begin individual lessons with a prayer. Staff and Governors' meetings will also start with a time of prayer and all those present will be invited to share in whatever way they feel comfortable. All new teaching staff to the school are trained on how to deliver collective worship and use Be Inspirational.

Grace before Meals

At the end of the morning period, students and staff will pray together before going to lunch. Students and staff can make use of the 'Be Inspirational' resources and the prayers in their planners.

Celebrating the liturgical seasons

Special opportunity is given throughout the liturgical year to embrace the traditional prayers of the Church. During the months of October and May there will be the opportunity to pray the Rosary and The Angelus will form part of the daily prayer resources for Advent, Lent and the month of May.

During Advent and Lent, students will be given the opportunity to make use of the sacrament of reconciliation.

Collective worship celebrates and shows the very best of our faith and offers a tangible articulation of God's love for all regardless of our differences, cultures, or beliefs.